(b) if so, whether any study on the implications of the judgement has been made;

(c) whether Government would consider a proposal to suitably amend the provision of IPC, as suggested by the Andhra Pradesh High Court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the Andhra Pradesh High Court and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ratio of Judges

1902. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Law Commission had recommended that the ratio of Judges per million population should be increased to atleast 50 Judges per million in the following five years;

(b) if so, the ratio of Judges per million at present;

(c) whether the shortage of Judges is the cause of huge arrears of cases in courts; and

(d) the steps being taken to appoint more Judges so that arrears could be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Eleventh Law Commission in its 120th Report on "Manpower Planning in Judiciary: A Blue Print" in July 1987, *inter alia,* observed that the strength of Judicial Officers in India was far less as compared to certain other countries. The Commission recommended that the present strength of 10.5 Judges per million population be increased to 50 Judges per million population in a phased manner.

At present, there are 14.7 judges per million population in the country.

(c) The pendency of cases in courts is, *inter-alia,* due to various factors including shortage of judges, enactment of new laws, increased

institution of cases on account of increased awareness of rights on the part of the citizens, rise in pupulation, granting of adjournments, industrial development in the country, increase in trade and commerce and socio-economic matters, legislative and administrative aspect touching on the life of he citizens of all levels, tendency of litigants, lawyers' strike etc. The shortage of judges is one of the causes of huge arrears of cases in courts.

(d) Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide its judgement of 21st March, 2002 in All India Judges' Association & Others *Vs.* Union of India & Others has directed that increase in the judge strength from the existing ratio of 10.5 or 13 per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented within a period of five years. The Supreme Court has also directed in the same case that all vacancies in the subordinate judiciary must be filled up by 31st March, 2003.

Central Government have addressed the State Government for taking necessary action in increase the judge strength as per the direction of the Supreme Court. As regards the directive to be complied with by the Central Government in respect of Union Territories, necessary action has been initiated.

The strength of judges in the Supreme Court is as per the Constitution of India. The review of judge strength of High Courts is undertaken once in every three years as per the norms prescribed on the basis of institution, disposal and pendency of cases in each High Court.

Model Family Courts Rules

1903. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of LAW and JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has formulated model Family Courts Rules;

(b) if so, the details of the rules framed;

(c) whether any consultation was done with the State Governments, High Courts and others; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?